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The new CIA boss

IT WOULD BE difficult to take issue with the Senate's confirmation of George Bush as the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

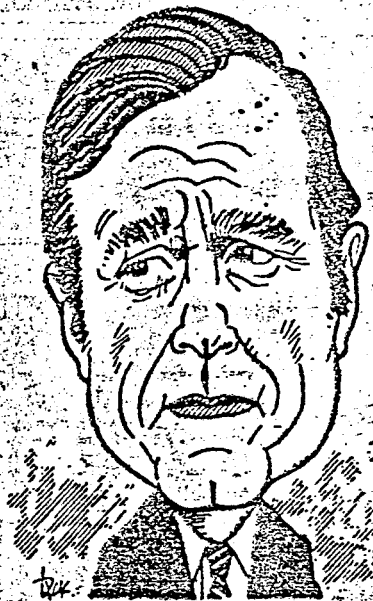
Bush's record is outstanding. He has been a success in private business, he has served in Congress, he has represented the United States in the United Nations and in China, he has a distinguished record as a Navy combat pilot in World War II.

But in confirming Bush on the basis of his record it should also be noted that Bush is also highly political. Although no stigma of the Watergate affair clings to him, he served former President Richard Nixon as head of the Republican National Committee in 1972.

This is the point most of his critics have held against him. In view of the political use of the Central Intelligence Agency for political purposes during the latter Nixon years the fears of Bush's critics are understandable.

Congress is now confronted with the problem of establishing safeguards against future abuses of public trust by our intelligence system. It's going to be a delicate problem — balancing the need for public responsibility against the need for national security.

So Bush is a politician. We



GEORGE BUSH

wonder what other calling is more accustomed to function in the role of public responsibility balanced against the need for national security.

Bush enjoys the additional benefit of being an outsider in the intelligence fraternity. His record as a hard-headed politician makes us hope he'll be more realistic in his approach to national intelligence needs than some of his predecessors who dabbled in itchy powder, exploding cigars and hair remover.